AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 1-24 as set forth below:

1.   (currently amended)   A method of preventing a client from directly contacting a server that is protected by a load distribution server from an overload of traffic, comprising:

determining, based on the recency of a time stamp contained within a client's request to receive a file from a content server, whether a said client's request to receive a said file from a said content server originated as a reference from one of the a set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server; and

responsive to determining that the client's request to receive the file from the content server did not originate as the reference from one of the set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server, sending to the client a file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server.

2.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

responsive to determining that the request to receive the file from the content server did originate as the reference from one of the set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server, sending to the client the file requested.

3.   (original)   The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

including in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server a means by which the client may directly contact the load distribution server through an initiative of a user of the client.

4.   (original)   The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

offering in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server a means to update a bookmark file to include the load distribution server.

5.   (previously presented)   The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

offering in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server a means to update the bookmark file to exclude the content server.

6.   (previously presented)   The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

offering in the means to update the client's bookmark file to include the load distribution server a means to update the bookmark file to exclude the content server.

7.   (original)   The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

including in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server a means by which the client will contact the load distribution server without intervention of the user.

8.   (original)   The method of Claim 7, further comprising:

including in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server a means by which to allow the user of the client sufficient time to read and react to the file requesting that the user of the client contact the load distribution server before contact with the load distribution server is established without intervention of the user.

9.   (currently amended)   A machine-readable medium having a plurality of instructions processable by a machine embodied therein, wherein said plurality of instructions, when processed by said machine, causes said machine to perform a method for A computer program product for preventing a client from directly contacting a server that is protected by a load distribution server from an overload of traffic, said method comprising:

instructions for determining, based on the recency of a time stamp contained within a client's request to receive a file from a content server, whether a said client's request to receive a said file from a said content server originated as a reference from one of the a set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server; and

instructions for, responsive to determining that the client's request to receive the file from the content server did not originate as the reference from one of the set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server, sending to the client a file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server.

10.   (currently amended)   The computer program product machine-readable medium of Claim 9, said method further comprising:

instructions for, responsive to determining that the request to receive the file from the content server did originate as the reference from one of the set consisting of the load distribution server and the content server, sending to the client the file requested.

11. (currently amended) The ~~computer program product~~ machine-readable medium of Claim 9, said method further comprising:

~~instructions for~~ including in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server a means by which the client may directly contact the load distribution server through an initiative of a user of the client.

12. (currently amended) The ~~computer program product~~ machine-readable medium of Claim 9, said method further comprising:

~~instructions for~~ offering in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server a means to update a bookmark file to include the load distribution server.

13. (currently amended) The ~~computer program product~~ machine-readable medium of Claim 12, said method further comprising:

~~instructions for~~ offering in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server a means to update the bookmark file to exclude the content server.

14. (currently amended) The ~~computer program product~~ machine-readable medium of Claim 12, said method further comprising:

~~instructions for~~ offering in the means to update the client's bookmark file to include the load distribution server a means to update the bookmark file to exclude the content server.

15. (currently amended) The ~~computer program product~~ machine-readable medium of Claim 9, said method further comprising:

~~instructions for~~ including in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server a means by which the client will contact the load distribution server without intervention of the user.

16.   (currently amended) The ~~computer program product~~ machine-readable medium of
       Claim 15, said method further comprising:

~~instructions for~~ including in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution
server a means by which to allow the user of the client sufficient time to read and react to the file
requesting that the user of the client contact the load distribution server before contact with the
load distribution server is established without intervention of the user.

17.   (currently amended) A system of preventing a client from directly contacting a server
that is protected by a load distribution server from an overload of traffic, comprising:

       means for determining, based on the recency of a time stamp contained within a client's
request to receive a file from a content server, whether ~~a~~ said client's request to receive ~~a~~ said
file from ~~a~~ said content server originated as a reference from one of ~~the~~ a set consisting of the
load distribution server and the content server;

       means for, responsive to determining that the client's request to receive the file from the
content server did not originate as the reference from one of the set consisting of the load
distribution server and the content server, sending to the client a file requesting that the client
contact the load distribution server.

18.   (previously presented)The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

       means for, responsive to determining that the request to receive the file from the content
server did originate as the reference from one of the set consisting of the load distribution server
and the content server, sending to the client the file requested.

19.   (original)   The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

       means, included in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server,
by which the client may directly contact the load distribution server through an initiative of a
user of the client.

20.   (original)   The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

       means, offered in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server, to
update a bookmark file to include the load distribution server.

21.   (previously presented)   The system of Claim 20, further comprising:

means, offered in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server, for updating the bookmark file to exclude the content server.

22.   (previously presented)   The system of Claim 20, further comprising:

means, offered in the means for updating the client's bookmark file to include the load distribution server, for updating the bookmark file to exclude the content server.

23.   (original)   The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

means, included in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server, by which the client will contact the load distribution server without intervention of the user.

24.   (original)   The system of Claim 23, further comprising:

means, included in the file requesting that the client contact the load distribution server, by which to allow the user of the client sufficient time to read and react to the file requesting that the user of the client contact the load distribution server before contact with the load distribution server is established without intervention of the user.